

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0445

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SF

SUBJECT: FONMIN MULLER' S VIEWS ON HOMELANDS AS INDEPENDENT STATES

REF: CAPE TOWN 431

1. IN SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT PRETORIA UNIVERSITY JUNE 7, FONMIN MULLER SAID " THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT STATES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THE FUTURE" COULD CONSTITUTE " A QUARTER OR EVEN A HIGHER PERCENTAGE" OF ALL INDEPENDENT STATES IN AFRICA. HE SAID HE BASED HIS CALCULATIONS ON " THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR BANTU HOMELANDS."

2. EXPATIATING FURTHER ON THIS INTERESTING, SOME MIGHT SAY STARTLING, THEME, MULLER SAID THERE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THESE NEW INDEPENDENT STATED WILL BE ECONOMICALLY LESS VIABLE THAN MAJORITY OF STATES IN AFRICA. HE ASSERTED THAT FIFTY- SIX PERCENT OF AFRICAN

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STATES HAVE LOWER PER CAPITA INCOME THAN THE " NINE TERRITORIES WITHIN THE REPUBLIC WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME INDEPENDENT STATES." ABOUT THIRTY- SIX PERCENT OF AFRICAN STATES, HE WENT ON, FALL WITHIN SAME PER CAPITA INCOME GROUP AS THE NINE HOMELANDS AND ONLY SEVEN PERCENT HAD HIGHER PER CAPITA INCOME.

3. HE PICTURED SOUTHERN AFRICA AS STANDING " ON THRESHOLD OF A NEW DISPENSATION." NEXT DECADE WOULD BRING GREAT CHANGES. SOUTH AFRICA STRIVING TO CONVINCE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES OF ITS SINCERITY THROUGH RESULTS ACHIEVED WITHIN ITS OWN BOUNDARIES.

4. COMMENT: FONMIN' S BLITHE REMARKS ABOUT NINE HOMELANDS BECOMING SEPARATE INDEPENDENT STATES ARE PARTICULARLY UNREALISTIC NOW THAT SAG HAS PUBLISHED ITS HOMELANDS CONSOLIDATION PLAN (DETAILS BY AIRGRAM). FOR EXAMPLE, THE TEN UNCONNECTED PIECES OF TERRITORY THAT ARE TO BECOME KWA ZULU REPRESENT HEIGHT OF GEOPOLITICAL ABSURDITY. MOREOVER, SAG' S PLANS HAVE BEEN VEHEMENTLY REJECTED BY MOST AFRICAN LEADERS, WHO NOT CONSULTED ON MATTER AND WHO IN ANY EVENT CANNOT ACCEPT UNREASONABLY SMALL AMOUNT OF LAND INCLUDED UNDER TERMS OF 1936 BANTU LAND AND TRUST ACT.

5. ONE WONDERS ON WHAT BASIS SAG HAS COMPILED PER CAPITA INCOME STATISTICS COMPARING HOMELANDS' RESIDENTS WITH INHABITANTS OF BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES. RELATIVE AFFLUENCE OF SA BLACKS IS LINE BEING PUSHED BY SAG LATELY AND MULLER IS NOT FIRST OFFICIAL TO RESORT TO IT. SAG NOW IGNORING FACT OF ECONOMIC NON- VIABILITY OF HOMELANDS AND INSTEAD USING QUESTIONABLE AND IRRELEVANT ARGUMENT THAT THEIR RESIDENTS (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING THOSE LIVING IN WHITE AREAS OF SA) ARE BETTER OFF THAN MOST OF REST OF AFRICA' S PEOPLES.

6. IN HIS RECENT TALK WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM (REFTEL) MULLER FAILED TO SEE WHY USG WOULD NOT GIVE SAG CREDIT FOR SINCERITY OF ITS EFFORTS TOWARD MULTI- NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS AND HIS SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED VIEWS ON HOMELANDS REFLECT BOTH LACK OF REALISM AND DEGREE OF

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HIS COMMITMENT TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AS A PHILOSOPHY AND A POLICY. UNFORTUNATELY MULLER' S LINE OF THINKING APPARENTLY IS SHARED BY MOST OF NATIONAL PARTY RULING ESTABLISHMENT.
HURD.

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